PORYGON mag

No 01

SPECIAL EDITION

NS'97 FLASHBACK!!

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Devon! AND STILL ~~SYLPH CO~~ SHOP

ROAR OF TIME

the good ol' days

POKEMON GOLD AND SILVER, ALPHA!

This week, this page is dedicated to the gold & silver versions. But not the ones we know! We'll especially focus on their early conception, or better said, what they should have been.

NO COLORS PLANNED INITIALLY

During the early stage of development of Pokémon GS, the portable gaming device #1 was still the GameBoy Classic, and the team planned to target the coming games on this one.

Ruins of Alph, for sure. The design of the caves was really better.

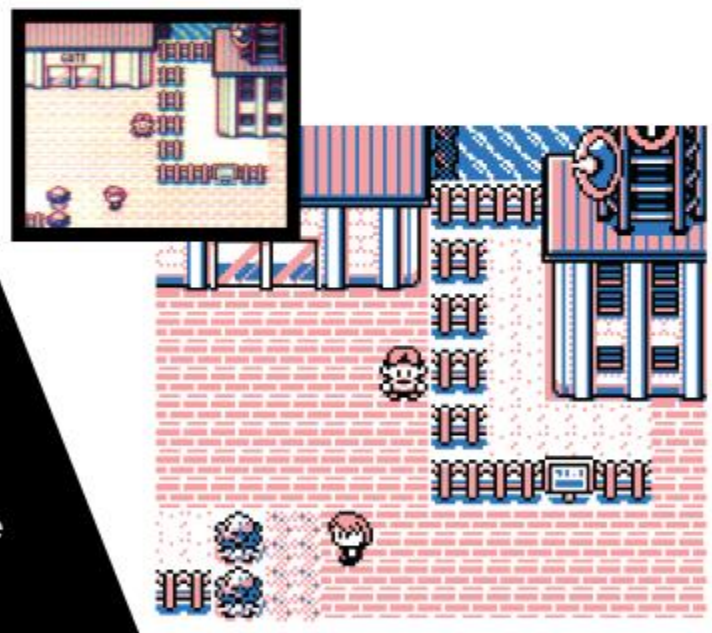
A random building.

New Bark Town, or better "Silent Hills" The start town was planned to be named this way, but the horror game released in 1999 certainly influenced the choice of changing it.

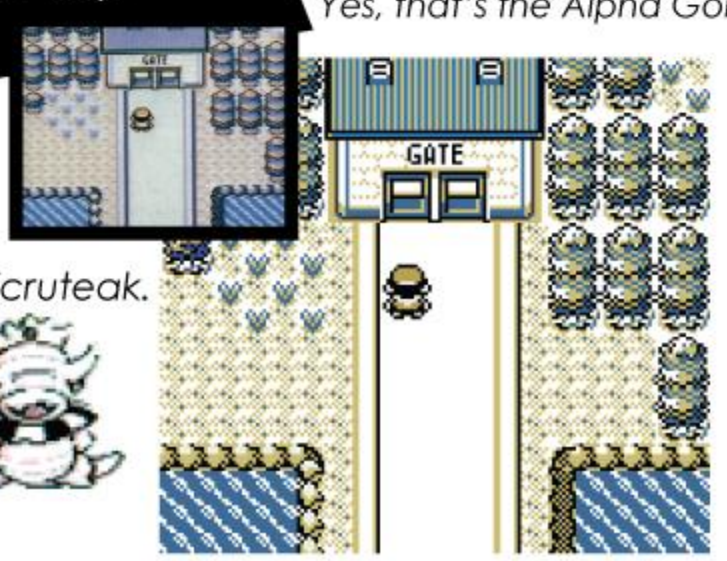
RESTORED ALPHA PREVIEWS

A deviant artist restored the screenshots published in the SpaceWorld 97 Booklet and in magazines like the Computer & Videogames magazine.

The colors palettes differ because the game was developped and demoed on a Super Game Boy.



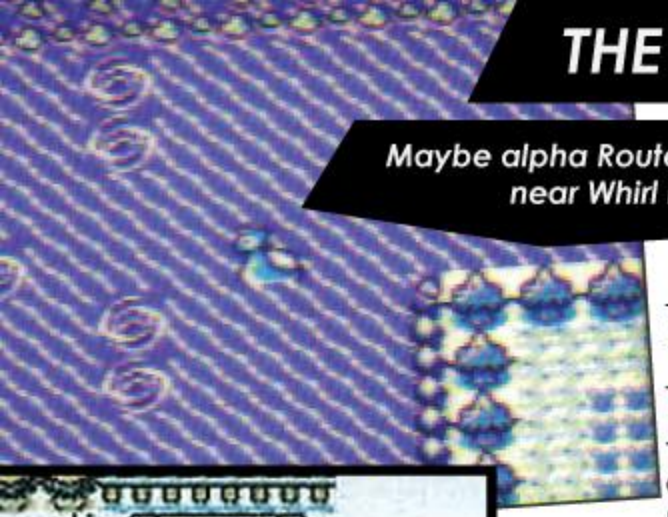
Yes, that's the Alpha Goldenrod!



Left: *Violet City of Ecruteak.*
Right: *Route 35!*

source: http://baletandesu.deviantart.com/gallery/36652816

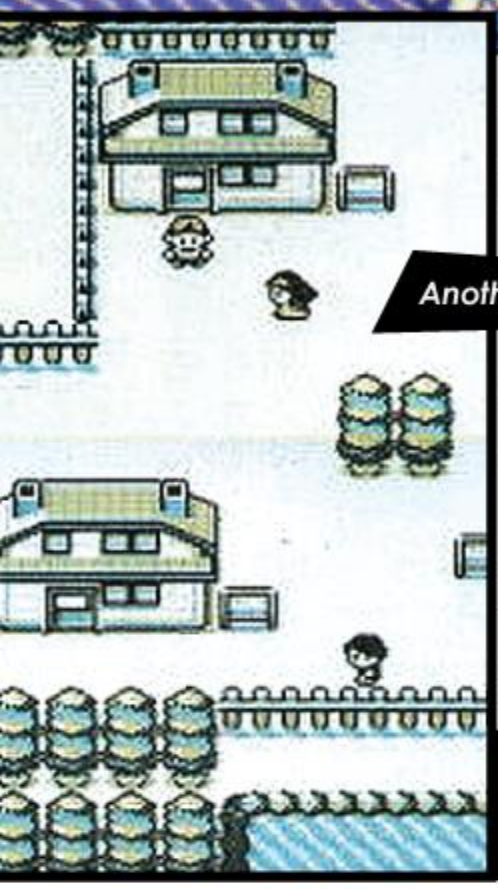
THE NINTENDO SPACEWORLD 97 : THE BEGINNING



Maybe alpha Route 41, near Whirl Islands

The 22 & 23 November 1997 took place at the Tokyo's Makuhari Messe, - a big japanese conventions center -,the Nintendo Space World.

The edition of this year was really important for players and specialists, because 2 bigs announcements were expected : First, a playable version of the next big hit of Nintendo, Zelda Ocarina of Time (which will later be elected best game ever)



Another probable view of Silent Hills

and the announcement and playable demo of the emerging hit of the society : Pokémon Gold and Silver.

Maybe the road to Goldenrod, as seen in a SpaceWorld 97 Report Video

While the presented GameBoy Camera and Printer (sacred "World's Smallest Digital Camera" by the Guinness of Records the next year) where considered as curiosities, the lines formed by visitors who whanted to play to the demo of Pokémon Gold and Silver seemed endless. The game lasted 10 minutes, but playing time was later reduced to 5 because of the long lines.

(you can see the demo stands at the top of the page)

THE DEMO WALKTHROUGH

(SO BAD, THERE'S NO SCREENSHOTS OF IT)

Demo's opening screen started with a surfing Lapras,
a singing Pikachu and a Charizard using Flamethrower.
The title screen displayed Lugio or Ho-oh, depending on the demo.

Before playing, you were asked for the time.
Then, Prof. Oak appeared in order to introduce you to the world of Pokemon.
The player was named Ash Ketchum by default.

The demo started in a town named "Silent Hills", in the protagonist's bedroom.
A lv.8 pokemon was randomly assigned to you.

"Happa"

Nº 152

Tackle
Serene
Leech Seed

"Honooguma"

Nº ???

Ember
Leer
Scratch

"Kurusu"

Nº 212

Growl
Water Gun
Tackle

All these pokemons were holding a "nut".

When your pokemon's HP drops below half,
they are automatically restored at the end of the turn.

You have the following items:
5 Pokeballs
10 "Heal Powder"
1 Mint Berry
1 "Revival Herb"

And start with a Pokedex.

You have a N64 in your bedroom, with some dolls, a radio, a computer etc.
A radio transmission played: "The Prof. Oak disappeared from Kanto.
he was apparently looking for the location of a new Pokemon, and his encounter with it is probably the cause.". The PC is connected to a homepage saing "
Skarmory is the freshly discovered Pokemon. Its types are Flying and Metal".

The rival shows up.

You can't go into Oak's lab or into a Pokemon Center.
Someone stops you to entering into this last one.
You leave the town by the west side, where you find some tall grass.
The wild pokemons are the following:

Pidgey
Rattata
Pikachu
Marill
Girafarig (the two headed version)
Sunflora
Hoppip
Ledyba

When a pokemon is captured, it is recorded in your pokedex.
The description for the new pokemons is "Newly discovered Pokemon. Under investigation".

When encountering a wild pokemon, a Pokeball pattern displays on the screen, as encounter animation.
The battle screen is simila to R/B/G/Y, with an extra EXP gauge.
When capturing a pokemon, the ball splits into two parts (like in the final G/S versions).

To the west of this area, there's a highland similar to Viridian Forest, with some trainers in the grass. The wild pokemons in this area are:

Day:	**Night:**
Caterpie	Hoothoot
Metapod	Sentret
Paras	
Venonat	
Clefairy	
Meowth	
Slowking	

Two of the trainers were a schoolboy and a lass.

At the end of the forest, you meet Giovani's son and your rival.

[End of the demo]

1997 INTERVIEW OF THE GAME FREAK TEAM!

(translation made by glitterberri)

The following interview concerning the then-unnamed Pokémon Gold & Silver was taken from Game Staff List Association Japan, a Japanese site that aims to, among other things, summarize, transcribe, and categorize interviews with video game developers. I t took place in 1997, with participants Shigeru Miyamoto, Satoshi Tajiri (the creator of Pokémon), and Tsunekazu Ishihara (the series' producer). The original source is unknown.

Miyamoto: I'm actually not really involved with Pokémon 2 yet. Since the first games were released, I've been busy producing for the Nintendo 64.

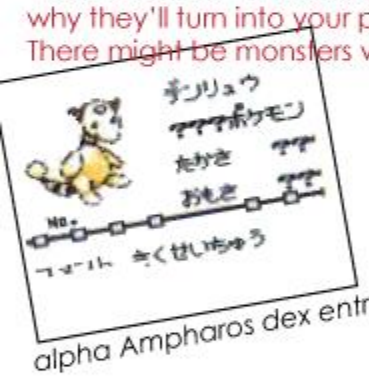
Tajiri: We're currently fine-tuning all the Pokémon we made. We designed more than 200 Pokémon for the first games, then whittled them down to 150. This game will exceed 200 Pokémon, but we already have over 350, which leaves me wondering which ones I should keep. We frequently run company-wide popularity polls. We've only settled on 4 things that we're going to be making for Pokémon 2. In the game world, there's a magazine about Pokémon called Pokémon Genre. If you investigate the bookshelves in the game, you can find copies of Pokémon Genre and read the articles published in it. About why Slowking is the way he is, for example. That way you can learn things while you're playing.

As for the Pokédex, we tried making a number of different prototypes with different functions. In order for an electronic organizer to be useful, it has to be able to increase your knowledge, right? We thought up several ideas, such as being able to search Pokémon by name and categorize them by type, but I wanted to combine all these features into one. We've added new functions, of course, but I think the end result will be convenient and lighten the users' burden. The way we've approached things is to develop whatever we want without paying any heed to how much memory is available, cutting down on Pokémon we can't fit in later on.
Miyamoto: These games will have 8 megabits of memory. It's an improvement on the previous games, so I think it's good enough.

Tajiri: In order to economize on memory in RGB, we made it so that if you were looking at a character from behind, it would appear out of focus in relation to the camera angle. Since we're now able to use more memory, things will be much clearer. Having twice as much memory doesn't necessarily mean that there are going to be twice as many Pokémon or twice as many maps.

Up till now, I think RPGs have omitted the question of how, exactly, you run into enemies. Despite their specs improving, nothing has changed in that regard. What I wanted to do was have Pokémon appear in places where you wouldn't be able to see what was coming due to your height in comparison to the height of the grass. That's the sort of thing I want to do to make use of the increase in memory. Create things which allow you to grasp the games in more detail, such as the Pokémon Genre magazine I mentioned before. I want players saying "So, this is what Pikachu's back looks like," for example.
The information in the Pokédex has changed a little in Gold & Silver, so you'll be able to understand each Pokémon a little better.

During development, we experimented with a variety of things concerning the games' connectivity. I was thinking about allowing players to trade Pokémon with money attached, but I gave the idea up in RGB as it doesn't do anything to increase your understanding of the games.
It seems, however, that people caught wind of the notion that it might be fun to trade things, so these games might reflect an increase in the number of things aside from Pokémon that you're able to exchange. *laughing* NPC trainers were originally put into the games because at first you weren't able to complete your Pokédex without using the link cable to trade with your friends. But, then what would people without any friends have done? We decided to build at least a few friends into the game for them. That's why, as long as there are other Pokémon, there will be other trainers, and why they'll turn into your playmates. We plan to add some new parameters into the game as well as new types of Pokémon. There might be monsters who rival your incredibly strong Mewtwo, for example.


alpha Ampharos dex entry

Alpha trainers and pokemons

Don't forget a skate was planned! The code is still present in the final game, but the result is not really handy...

The alpha title screen, restored by the deviantArt artist nidrax

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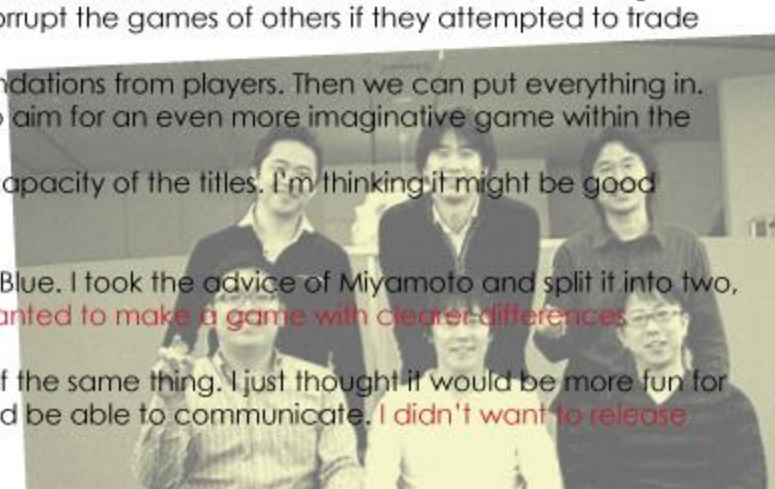
Ishihara: You may find that your attacks have no effect.
Tajiri: The games aren't about raising the strongest Pokémon, but rather about raising the strongest Pokémon team.
If you bought both of the previous titles and worked really hard, you'd be able to complete your Pokédex all by yourself, something that's possible in these games as well. I know there's a difference between people who buy both versions and trade back and forth between them to get all the Pokémon and people who collect Pokémon by trading with others. That's why I want to allow players to see the number of people they've traded with. I want to give the matter more serious consideration and create a game that doesn't pick on kids who don't have friends, but rather helps to increase the number of friends they do have. That's the play environment I'm aiming for.

Ishihara: Mew was a Pokémon that didn't appear in the game itself but was instead attained illegitimately. There were quite a few instances of people doing the trick for fun and succeeding in catching it, then trying again and messing up their game. We're afraid of that happening again, so we need to be more systematic this time. The whole Mew fiasco became much more widespread than we'd first imagined. That sort of thing also divides the people who come to the actual events to trade Pokémon, so we're fine-tuning things with the intention of making a special piece of hardware called the Pokémon Machine. Also, though it has nothing to do with actual gameplay, we're also thinking up ways to support other types of play. (Translator's Note: The problem of people using the Mew glitch was so prevalent, Nintendo made an announcement about it, warning Japanese players that attempting the trick might erase their game, corrupt their data, and corrupt the games of others if they attempted to trade with them.)
Tajiri: We're developing the game by gathering suggestions for improvements and recommendations from players. Then we can put everything in. I want there to be answers to the mysteries that players found in the previous games. I want to aim for an even more imaginative game within the confines of the Game Boy hardware, and pay attention to the little details.
Miyamoto: I'd like to do an N64 game that supplement the character portraits and memory capacity of the titles. I'm thinking it might be good enough to have a game that's merely a glorified Pokédex.



Tajiri: In the beginning, the original Pokémon didn't have different variations such as Red and Blue. I took the advice of Miyamoto and split it into two, something that was a first for us. This time, I knew we'd have two versions from the start, so I wanted to make a game with clearer differences between the two releases than were present in Red and Green.
Miyamoto: I didn't suggest splitting the games because it would allow us to sell more copies of the same thing. I just thought it would be more fun for the players if, say, there were 3 siblings and they all owned something unique. That way, they'd be able to communicate. I didn't want to release separate versions of the games just to increase the marketability.

PLACES & PEOPLE

This week: How to be a perfect youngster!

Rule 1 : Shorts, you will wear

Because a youngster without shorts is like a Slowbro without Kokiyas, you'll wear a short (preferably blue) to feel the high grass on your legs while you are looking for Rattatas or Metapods

Oh, and don't forget to tell everyone about it.

Rule 2 : Pokemons on the top percentage, you will catch

Energic Metapods, smart Bidoofs, strong Rattatas... Catch and show em to new trainers!

And don't forget to tell everyone about it.

Rule 3 : A cellular, you will get

Elsewhere, how will you talk about your top percentage team and shorts to your friends when they are in a foreign country?

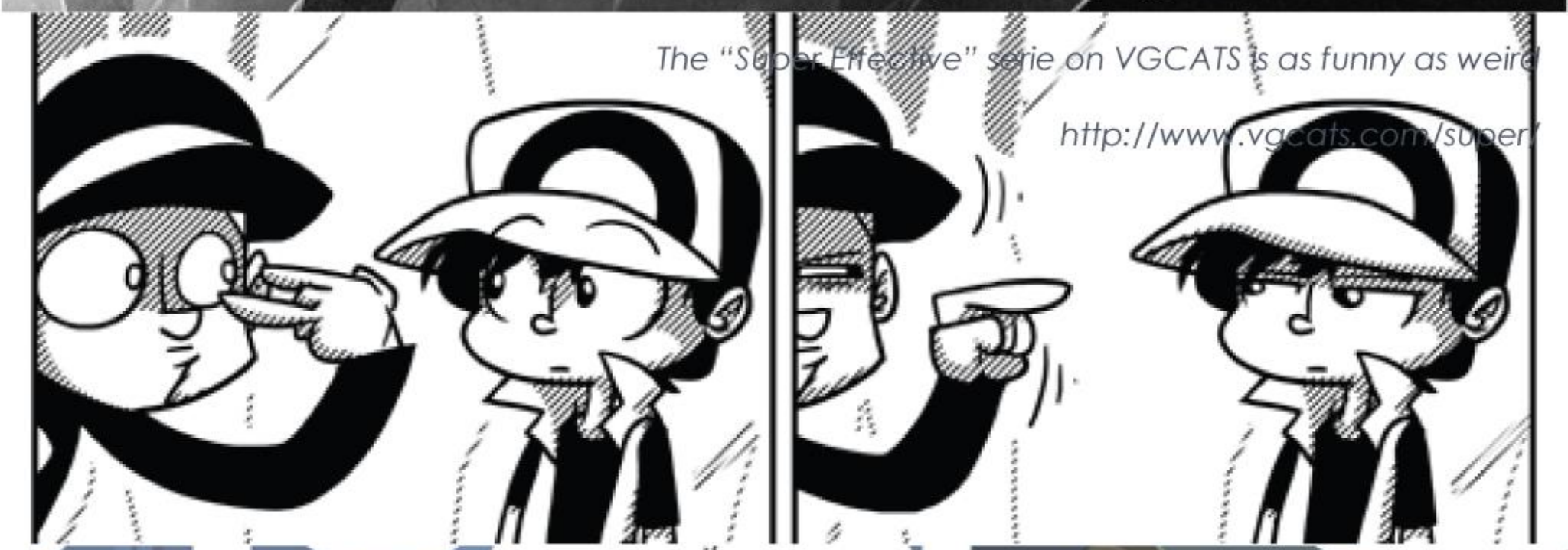
Rule 5 : Help the player to win, you will

Because new players in the fantastic world of pokemon need a bit of self-esteem, this is why you will lose in front of their lvl 8 Bulbasaur or Cyndaquil

Bill's comics list!

Viridian City is a great noir webcomic by Ray Bruwelheide

http://viridiancitypokecenter.tumblr.com/



The "Super Effective" serie on VGCATS is as funny as weird

http://www.vgcats.com/super/

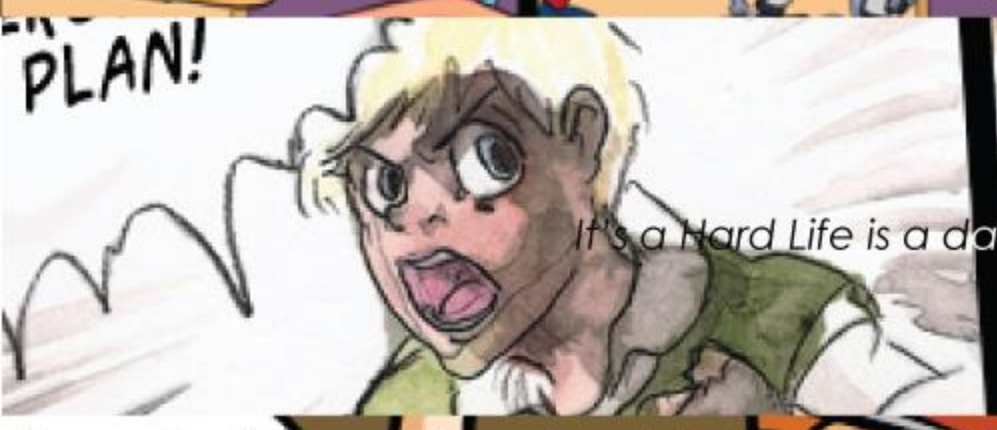
interdimensional warps has for the first time been implemented as an actual product.
Which is?
An emergency teleporter, sir.

This list cannot be complete without the famous Rare Candy Treatment

http://www.rarecandytreatment.com/

Pokemon Hard Mode on Nuzlocke Comics is so damn cool

http://www.nuzlocke.com/pokemonhardmode.php



It's a Hard Life is a dark serie, but worth the reading if you want something more mature

http://itsahardlife.smackjeeves.com/

awkwardzombie.com and dorkly.com have great pokemon strips too!

DEVON SHOP

*F*** you, SYLPH!!!*

Remember these Tomy Pokemon playsets? So kitsch now, but on the net nobody know you're past twenty!
(ebay)

Ever heard of the Pokemon Zukan figures? Available through Gashapon machines, their quality and level of detail make em a must-have for every pokefan!

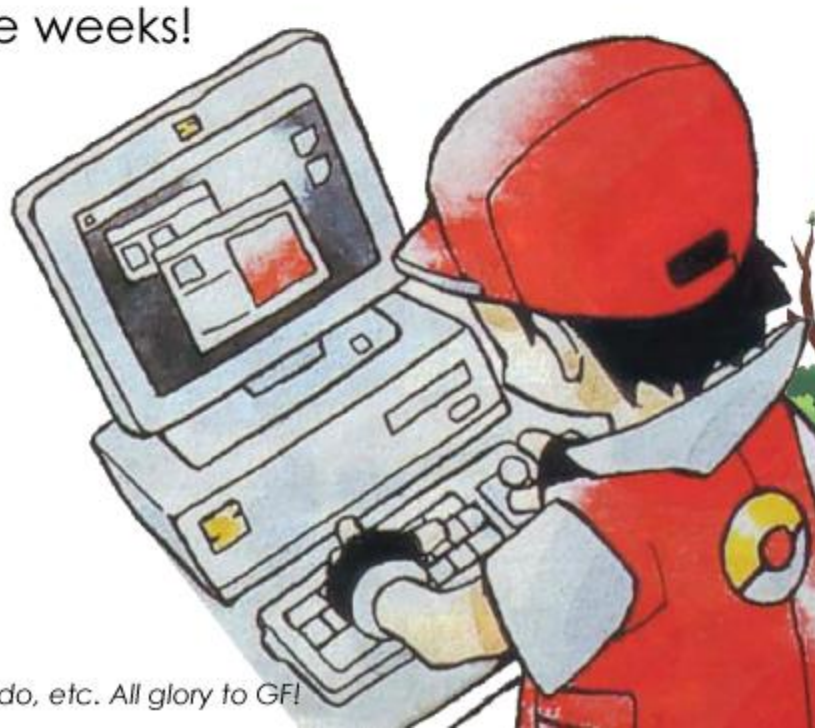
(Victory Road)

here your stuff can be posted

What is Porygon Mag?

Porygon Mag is a small Webzine related to the Pokémon world, and released every week. Composed of about 5 pages, it is without any pretension and aim to talk about what's trending in the pokéfandom with lot of graphics, corocoro way. Sometimes it will come with fun stuff (icons, cursors, etc)!
You can use it to diffuse your pokémon-related créations: websites, clothes, apps and webcomics. All that will fit and be relevant will be published along the weeks!

One webzine, one address:
terusama91@gmail.com



http://9ch.co/t53703,1-1.html

Webzine logo by the great @DavidHours Pokémon is property of Nintendo, etc. All glory to GF!